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forest extension, and Mr. L. D. Cox, formerly landscape architect to the Park Commission of Los Angeles, as assistant professor of landscape engineering.

SIR HENRY MIERS, formerly professor of mineralogy at Oxford, has resigned the principalship of the University of London to become vice-chancellor of Manchester University.

MR. L. G. OWEN has been appointed professor of mathematics at the Government College, Rangoon.

DR. RUDOLF HÖBER has been made professor of physiology at Kiel, in succession to Professor A. Bethe, who has accepted a call to Frankfurt.

#### DISCUSSION AND CORRESPONDENCE

##### A TYPICAL CASE

PROFESSOR ——— graduated at ——— University and, taking a post-graduate course, received the degree of Ph.D. He then went abroad, studied at the ——— University, and returned to America, full of enthusiasm for original research. He had published an important memoir for a thesis, which was well received, his instructors encouraged him and his fellow students appreciated and were interested in his work.

He now received an offer of a professorship in a small country college, married, and began his new life expecting to continue his investigations. He soon found that his entire time was occupied in teaching, and that he was obliged to eke out his small salary by writing and lecturing. He could not bear to abandon his great object, the advancement of human knowledge, and found that he could, by extra efforts, devote a portion of his evenings to research, amounting to a fourth of his entire working capacity. He went to the president of the college, asking for an appropriation for an assistant, who could do the routine work of copying, computing, etc., as well and as rapidly as he could himself. Instead of a quarter of his time, he would thus have one and a quarter, or five times as much, and could make rapid progress at small ex-

pense. The president told him that the object of the institution was teaching, not research, and that it was impossible to grant his request. A fellowship was, however, vacant, and might answer his purpose. This, however, would be of no use to him, as the fellow would not want to do routine work, but to undertake a research of his own, and would expect to be taught how to do it. His associates were teachers, not investigators, and took no interest in his plans. After repeated trials and discouragements, he abandoned his efforts and settled down as a teacher only, with no ambitions beyond enabling his classes to pass their examinations.

While good teachers are as much needed as investigators, the work of the latter may be greatly impeded if their main energy is devoted to instruction. The finding of such men, and enabling them to carry on the great work, for which they are fitted, by providing them with apparatus, assistants, or means for publication, is one of the principal objects of the Committee of One Hundred on Scientific Research.

EDWARD C. PICKERING

January 27, 1915

##### A SPHENOIDAL SINUS IN THE DINOSAURS

THE work which has been done recently on the accessory nasal sinuses in man and the mammals by H. W. Loeb, J. P. Schaeffer, Onodi, Ernst Witt, Ritter, A. W. Meyer, as well as the earlier work of Zuckerkandl, may receive some interesting additions from paleontology. While in no sense intending to affirm any genetic relations between the dinosaurs and mammals it is yet an interesting fact that a large sinus occurs in the sphenoidal region of dinosaurs and labyrinthodonts. It has previously been largely confused with the pituitary fossa near which it lies but recent work tends to show a distinction between this fossa for the lodgment of the hypophysis and the *recessus basisphenoidalis* as it is called by Osborn<sup>1</sup> who has figured this cavity very clearly in *Tyrannosaurus rex*, the huge carnivorous dinosaur from the Cretaceous. The

<sup>1</sup> Osborn, H. F., 1912, *Mem. Amer. Mus. Nat. Hist.*, N. S., Vol. 1, Pt. 1, Pls. III. and IV.